

Message

From: Smidinger, Betsy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=08E9600128AD456D9DF9BA1CB816AA8E-BSMIDING]
Sent: 2/20/2018 6:00:27 PM
To: Kelly, Albert [kelly.albert@epa.gov]
CC: Vranka, Joe [vranka.joe@epa.gov]; Benevento, Douglas [benevento.douglas@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Warm Springs Pond

Hi Kell – Sorry for the delay in this response. If you need any additional information, let Joe or me know.

The Atlantic Richfield Company has been treating the entire flow of Silver Bow Creek at the downstream end since the Warm Springs Ponds OUs interim Record of Decision was signed in 1990. The ponds are intended to continue treatment until all of the upstream work is complete and Silver Bow Creek meets stream standards without treatment. As part of the operation, Atlantic Richfield has been performing studies on how they operate the ponds to maximize efficiency and increase compliance with discharge standards. The 2,600-acre facility contains over 6 million cubic yards of tailings, sediments, and soil. A final decision on the final disposition of the ponds must be made when the upstream work is complete. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks manages the ponds as a wildlife/bird management area.

In consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA recently completed a biological assessment for the ponds to determine the potential impact on the designated critical Bull Trout habitat on the Clark Fork River. The assessment concluded that the remedial action at the ponds would affect but is not likely to adversely affect the Bull Trout critical habitat. The assessment was submitted last week to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for concurrence.

I hope this provides an update on the status of the Warm Springs Ponds OUs.

Betsy

Betsy Smidinger

*ARA, Ecosystems Protection and Remediation
U.S. EPA Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street, Room 4262
Denver, CO 80202
303-312-6231 (Office)
303-335-7627 (Cell)*

From: Kelly, Albert
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 9:41 AM
To: Smidinger, Betsy <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov>
Subject: Warm Springs Pond

Hi Betsy. Great to see you last week. Thanks as usual for you nice reception. The above was brought up to me by ARCO a while ago and I really never pursued a discussion. Could you please tell me the status of this and what our expected course is.

Albert Kelly
Senior Advisor to the Administrator
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
202 306 8830